

For the FCC to become involved with the concerns of major corporations at the expense of the good for the public is a very bad move in my opinion. The ability for the innovation of technology to make the lives of the average person easier is one of the greatest freedoms. In this case, the VCR enabled people view a show at time other than what was prescribed by the broadcast networks (sometimes people have to work strange hours or have duties that will not allow a person to be in front of the television at 8:00 PM or whatever time the show comes on. with the advent of pc based devices that allows one to do the same thing but at a higher quality and much easier to use (how many people still have the 12:00 blinking vcr's out there?), i would be inclined to look at shows when i am able to. understandably so, i can emphasize the rights of the broadcasting company to protect their "intellectual" property, but at the same time the rights of the people to be able to choose when they can watch needs to be considered. by passing any laws that limit this ability will most likely do more harm than good. first by having politicians who push this proposal who are financially supported by way of political contributions from the broadcast companies, the public will have the sense of that our government is not by the people for the people, but by the highest bidder for the highest bidder. secondly, knowing the many loopholes in the DCMA, it can be used against the average person who may have a vcr from a long time ago who cannot afford to purchase these overpriced digital medium and make them a criminal because of their daily life activities (unless the media wants to hire the entire population in order to make sure they are available to watch the shows when they are on the air...not likely). more importantly, the growth of technology would be limited to those "blessed" by the broadcast media to create things where as the hobbyist who comes up with an innovation would be deemed as criminal. If one looks back at our technology history, one would find that even the major players (i.e. Microsoft, Apple, etc.) started out in either a garage, dorm room etc. Granted some people may try to make illegal gains from technology, but with any technology, hasn't that been the case. I urge the FCC to please reconsider proposal 02-230 and keep the spirit of innovation for both corporations and (more importantly) the people.